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CENTRAL FAX CENTER
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801.0004

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Dobbins

Serial No.: 09/960,595

Filed: September 21, 2001

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR AN ELECTRONIC DROP SAFE

Group: 3627

Examiner: Chilcott, Richard

Durham, North Carolina
January 19, 2005

NON FEE AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Sirs:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax. No. 703-872-9306 on the date set forth below

1. Response to First Action Final Official Action (2 pages);
2. Showing of Common Ownership Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(a)(5)(i)

Marianna Tortorelli

Printed name of person signing

Marianna Tortorelli

Signature

Date: January 19, 2005

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450Response to First Action Final Official Action

Sir:

Remarks

This response replies to the first action Final Official Action mailed December 1, 2004.

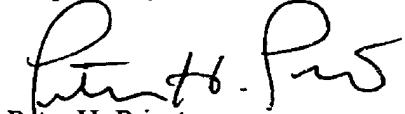
In that Action, all of the presently pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on various combinations of art, all of which include Reger et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,643,843 (Reger).

With regard to these 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections based on combinations of art including Reger, the Applicant is filing a Showing of Common Ownership in conjunction with this

Appl. No. 09/960,595
Amtd. dated January 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 1, 2004

response. This showing serves to exclude Reger as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), and thus, 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Consequently, Reger is not "prior" art and the present application should be promptly allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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